REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 12-25, 27, 29 and 31-40 are pending. Claims 25, 27, 29 and 31-40 are at issue.

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued an Election Requirement with respect to Claims 25, 27, 29, and 31-40, requiring the election of one combination of nucleic acid probes from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1-19 or its complimentary sequence thereof or all of the probes.

In response, the combination of probes represented by SEQ ID NOs: 1-19 and their complimentary sequences is elected. Claims 25, 27, 29, and 31-40 read on the elected combination.

In view of the above remarks, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the application be considered on its merits, and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Dated: August 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

S. Peter Ludwig

Registration No.: 25,351 DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant